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Provisional summary record of the 44th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 25 October 2002, at 5 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Šimonović ..... (Croatia)

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The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*) (E/2000/32-E/C.14/2000/11 and E/2002/49)

Themes for the substantive session of 2003 of the Economic and Social Council: high-level segment and coordination segment

1. **Mr. Rosenthal** (Guatemala), Vice-President, said that informal consultations on the themes for the Council's next substantive session had produced no consensus; more time was needed, and he suggested that the Council should decide to hold a resumed session in early December 2002.

2. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, welcomed the Vice-President's suggestion but expressed a preference for the resumed session being held well into the month of December so that the Second Committee of the General Assembly could first complete its work.

3. **The President** said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to defer the choice of themes for the substantive session of 2003 until a resumed session.

4. *It was so decided.*

Provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development (E/2000/32-E/C.14/2000/11)

5. **The President** drew attention to Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/36, in which the Council had deferred the approval of the provisional agenda of the third session of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to the Committee's next resumed session, and to Council decision 2002/215, in which it had deferred its consideration of the draft decision entitled "Report of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development on its second session and provisional agenda for the third session of the Committee" until after the World Summit on Sustainable Development. In the light of those decisions, and taking into account the outcome of the Summit to "terminate the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development and transfer its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development", he suggested that the Council should adopt the draft decision proposed by the Group of 77 and China, which read: "The Economic and Social Council, taking into account the decision contained in paragraph 126 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, decides to terminate the work of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development and transfer its work to the Commission on Sustainable Development".

6. *It was so decided.*

Strengthening further the Economic and Social Council, building on its recent achievements, to help it fulfil the role ascribed to it in the Charter of the United Nations as contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration (*continued*)

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on African Countries Emerging from Conflict (E/2002/L.38 and L.39)

7. **The President** drew attention to a draft resolution entitled "Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau" (E/2002/L.38), which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations. A statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was contained in document E/2002/L.39.

8. *Draft decision E/2002/L.38 was adopted.*

9. **Mrs. dos Santos Jaló** (Observer for Guinea-Bissau) expressed her country's gratitude to the Council for the decision it had adopted and said that Guinea-Bissau would do everything possible to ensure the success of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group in its work.

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits (*continued*) (E/2002/53; A/57/75-E/2002/57)

10. **The President** drew attention to the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Progress report on basic indicators for the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits at all levels" (E/2002/53) and "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits including the Millennium Summit" (A/57/75-E/2002/57).

11. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, recalled that at the Council's substantive session in July 2002 the Group had specifically requested that the progress report on basic indicators (E/2002/53) should be considered together with the report of the Statistical Commission on the work of its thirty-third session (E/2002/24-E/CN.3/2002/31). In the light of that request and the Group's current inability to take note of the report of the Statistical Commission, he requested that the Council should again defer consideration of the progress report on basic indicators.

12. **The President** said he would take it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit, contained in document A/57/75-E/2002/57.

13. *It was so decided*

The follow-up efforts to the International Conference on Financing for Development (continued) (A/57/319-E/2002/85)

14. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on follow-up efforts to the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/57/319-E/2002/85) and said that since the Second Committee of the General Assembly would be considering the report as well as the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development" (A/57/344), he would take it that the Council wished to defer consideration of document A/57/319-E/2002/85 to the substantive session of 2003.

15. *It was so decided*

Regional cooperation (*continued*) (E/2002/15/Add.4)

16. **The President** drew attention to document E/2002/15/Add.4, which contained a draft resolution (draft resolution I) entitled "Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan of the Economic Commission for Africa for the period 2002-2005". The Economic Commission for Africa had recommended the draft resolution for adoption by the Council.

17. *Draft resolution I in document E/2002/15/Add.4 was adopted.*

Economic and environmental questions (*continued*)

(c) Statistics (*continued*) (E/2002/24-E/CN.3/2002/31; E/2002/L.37)

18. **The President** recalled that in its decision 2002/297 the Council had decided to defer taking note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-third session (E/2002/24-E/CN.3/2002/31). It was his understanding that a text had been circulated by the Group of 77 and China in which the Group proposed that the Council should take note of the report and decide that further consideration and guidance by the Council were needed.

19. *The Council decided to defer its consideration of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-third session to the next resumed substantive session.*

20. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that informal consultations would continue with a view to finding language that would meet the concerns of both the Group and its negotiating partners.

21. **The President** drew attention to document E/2002/L.37 containing a draft decision on amendment of the rules of procedure of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names.

22. *The draft decision contained in document E/2002/L.37 was adopted.*

(g) Public administration (*continued*) (A/57/262-E/2002/82; E/2002/84-E/CN.16/2002/8)

23. **The President** drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the role of public administration in the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A/57/262-E/2002/82) and the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its first session (E/2002/84-E/CN.16/2002/8).

24. **Mr. Bertucci** (Director of the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the role of public administration in the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (E/2002/82), said that the report highlighted some of the major areas on which public administration capacity-building efforts should focus: institutional and human resources capacity, public sector management and information technology capacity-building. Expertise in all of those

areas would be needed if countries were to achieve the Millennium Declaration goals. The report also outlined general policy recommendations for Governments and identified ways in which the United Nations could assist them. The Council might wish to take note of the report and transmit it to the General Assembly for its consideration.

25. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that those countries were considering submitting a draft resolution on the report contained in document E/2002/84-E/CN.16/2002/8. Any text submitted would begin with the Council's taking note of the report. That being the case, he wondered whether it was procedurally correct for the Council to take note of a report at the current meeting and again at its resumed session in December.

26. **Mr. Khan** (Director of the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination) said that there was no procedural problem, since the report which had just been introduced and the report to which the Observer for Venezuela had referred were two separate reports

27. **The President** suggested that the Council should take note of the report contained in document E/2002/82 and defer action on the report contained in document E/2002/84-E/CN.16/2002/8.

28. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela) said that the Group of 77 and China would definitely submit a draft resolution in which the Council would take note of both reports. It might therefore be preferable for the Council to defer action on both until its next resumed substantive session.

29. **Mr. Khan** (Director of the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination) said that the Council could not transmit a report to the General Assembly for consideration without first taking note of it. For the Council to take note again at its next resumed session of reports of which it had already taken note in order to transmit them to the General Assembly posed no procedural problem.

30. **Mr. Carpio Govea** (Observer for Venezuela) said that the Group of 77 and China would not wish to delay the transmission of reports to the General Assembly. However, he wished to know the agenda item under which they would be considered there.

31. **Mr. Khan** (Director of the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination) said that the two reports would be considered under agenda item 12, entitled "Report of the Economic and Social Council".

32. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to take note of the report of the Secretary-General contained in document E/2002/82.

33. *It was so decided.*

34. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to defer action on the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its first session (E/2002/84-E/CN.16/2002/8) to the Council's next resumed substantive session.

35. *It was so decided.*

Social and human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Social development (*continued*)

Question of the observance by the Government of Myanmar of the International Labour Organization (ILO) *Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)* (E/2002/81)

36. **Mr. Langmore** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that there had been developments in the situation with regard to the observance by the Government of Myanmar of ILO Convention No. 29 since the dispatch of the letter dated 17 July 2002 from the representative of ILO to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Council. He drew attention in that connection to ILO document GB.285/4 — available on the ILO web site — which would be considered at the forthcoming session of the ILO Governing Body in November. The document concerned the activities of the ILO interim Liaison Officer, who was mandated to investigate the matter of forced labour, from June to October 2002. It reflected the need for a coherent and effective plan of action to deal with the allegations of forced labour which would be based, inter alia, on a field trip to the country's Tanintharyi Division. Lastly, it provided an account of a meeting between the interim Liaison Officer and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and referred to recent assumption of duties by the new permanent Liaison Officer, Ms. Hông-Trang Perret-Nguyen.

37. **Mr. Christensen** (Observer for Denmark) asked whether ILO would continue to keep the Council informed of the matter.

38. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Council) said it was her understanding that the Council had requested ILO to keep it informed.

39. **Mr. Gamaleldin** (Egypt), supported by **Mr. Dakal** (Nepal), said that since ILO had performed its obligation of informing the Council, the matter should be closed.

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B (*continued*) (E/2002/73)

40. **Mr. Khan** (Director of the Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination) said that the consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions of the Council in 2002 (E/2002/73) contained a review of the work of the functional commissions, the way in which they addressed the themes at the high-level segment of the Council, and their response to the Council's efforts to ensure complementarity and coordination among them and between them and the Council. Unfortunately, the Council had not had time to consider the report during the general segment and had merely taken note of it, no action had been initiated regarding advice from the Council to the functional commissions in 2003, nor had the themes for the high-level segment been decided. He therefore urged the Council to take up the matter at the resumed substantive session in December.

41. Once the Council had decided to do so, it should consider the report and, in the light of the recommendations it contained and the themes the Council would probably select at its 2003 organizational session, adopt a decision that could provide guidance to the functional commissions as to how they should address the themes and how cooperation among them and between them and the Council could be enhanced. The provision of such guidance to the functional commissions and the Council's subsidiary bodies was an important function of the Council, and there was still time during the current year to advise the functional commissions, especially with regard to follow-up to conferences and implementation of the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration.

Non-governmental organizations (*continued*)

42. **Mr. Amoros Núñez** (Cuba) said that his delegation was deeply concerned that the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2001 session (E/2002/10), which had been submitted to the Secretariat five months previously, had not been translated into the official languages in time for the Council's current session. The Secretariat had displayed an unwonted lack of discipline in that regard, one that Member States should not accept. He sincerely hoped that the report would be submitted in all official languages in time for the resumed session to be held in December.

43. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Council) said that because the report, which had been submitted barely one month before its planned consideration, consisted of 18,000 words, the Secretariat had been constrained to divide it into two parts for translation. The first part, which covered matters calling for action by the Council, had been made available for consideration during the Council's substantive session, and the Secretariat had assured delegations that the second part would be ready for the resumed organizational session, which traditionally occurred after the conclusion of the work of the Second and Third Committees of the General Assembly. Accordingly, the report would be available to the Council in time for its resumed session in December.

44. **Ms. Serwer** (United States of America) expressed sympathy with the Secretariat's situation regarding the report.

45. **Mr. Durrani** (Pakistan), speaking also as Rapporteur of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, expressed support for the views of the Cuban delegation. He, too, was disappointed that the second part of the report in question had not been made available. While he agreed with the Secretariat that the report was long, it should not have taken four months to translate it. The inordinate delay in the publication of the report had created a number of problems. For instance, while the part of the report that had been adopted by the Council at its substantive session reflected action taken by the Committee on various applications for consultative status, it had not accurately described the nature of some of the decisions taken. Moreover, when the Secretariat had proposed at the substantive session that the report should be split into two parts, delegations had reluctantly agreed on the understanding that the full report would be ready at the current session. The Secretariat had failed to live up to its promise. He trusted that the Secretariat would indeed make the

report available to the Council at its next resumed session.

46. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was aware that the report's length could sometimes delay action on it. Accordingly, a working group of the Committee was endeavouring to improve the format and reduce the length of the report, and it was to be hoped that future reports would be shorter. The Secretariat should do its part by making sure that future reports were not delayed but issued to Council members on time.

47. **Mr. Manis** (Observer for the Sudan) endorsed the statements made by the representatives of Cuba and Pakistan and said that his delegation had reluctantly agreed to the splitting of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the understanding that the second part thereof would be taken up at the current session. He was therefore concerned that consideration of the report had not been included in the agenda for the session. He hoped that that situation would not set a precedent for the future work of the Council. Noting that the second part of the report contained the applications of many non-governmental organizations, he wondered how the Council would be able to take action on them, as the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations would be holding its next session in only a few weeks.

48. **Mr. Zhang** Lei (China) endorsed the comments of previous speakers and noted that there were some technical errors in the first part of the report, which his delegation hoped would be corrected by the Secretariat.

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters (*continued*)

Elections and nominations postponed from the previous session

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

49. **The President** informed the Council that Jordan had been endorsed by the Group of Asian States to fill the remaining vacancy on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development allotted to that Group for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2004 and that Belgium had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States to fill one of the vacancies on the Commission allotted to that Group for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2003. He took it that the Council wished to elect them by acclamation.

50. *It was so decided.*

51. **The President** said he took it that the Council wished to postpone to a later stage the election to the Commission of two members from the Group of Western European and Other States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2004, and of two members from that same Group for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

52. *It was so decided.*

Committee for Programme and Coordination

53. **The President** informed the Council that Switzerland had been endorsed by the Group of Western European and Other States to fill one of the two vacancies allotted to that Group on the Committee for Programme and Coordination for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2003. He took it that the Council wished to nominate Switzerland for election by the General Assembly and to postpone to a later stage the nomination of one other member from the Group of Western European and Other States.

54. *It was so decided.*

Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting

55. **The President** informed the Council that Panama had been endorsed by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to fill one of the 14 vacancies remaining on the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2003. He took it that the Council wished to elect Panama by acclamation and to postpone to a later stage the election of one member from the Group of Eastern European States and one member from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2003, and of one member from the Group of African States, two members from the Group of Asian States, two members from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and six members from the Group of Western European and Other States for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2003.

56. *It was so decided.*

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
(E/2002/L.1/Add.27)

57. **The President** drew the Council's attention to the curriculum vitae of Ms. Qin Xiaomei, contained in document E/2002/L.1/Add.27, who had been nominated by the Government of China with the endorsement of the Group of Asian States. He took it that the Council wished to elect Ms. Qin Xiaomei by acclamation to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for a term beginning on the date of election and expiring on 31 December 2004.

58. *It was so decided.*

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.